



**RIO GRANDE ZOO, ALBUQUERQUE AQUARIUM
and RIO GRANDE BOTANIC GARDEN**

CONSERVATION CAMP COUNSELOR

JOB DESCRIPTION

SUMMER 2006

WHAT

Conservation Camp Counselors are teen volunteers who assist BioPark Education staff and program instructors with camps and other educational programs offered for children at the Rio Grande Zoo, Albuquerque Aquarium, and Rio Grande Botanic Garden and Tingley Beach during the summer.

Camp BioPark 2006 offers eight different week-long (Monday through Friday) day camps to help young people ages five to thirteen develop a better understanding of the earth and ways to take care of it. All programs emphasize conservation concepts and take advantage of the BioPark plants, animals, exhibits, and grounds. All of the eight programs are offered three or more times during the summer.

WHO

Anyone who is 16 years of age or older is eligible to become a volunteer Conservation Counselor. Abilities needed to become a successful BioPark volunteer include enthusiasm for teaching conservation, patience, maturity, a strong sense of responsibility, dependability, and a willingness to learn. In addition, Counselors need to be task-oriented, take direction well, show initiative, and have the ability to interact and communicate effectively with children and young adults.

WHEN

Camp BioPark summer camps begins June 5 and continues through July 28, with no camp the week of July 4. Camps run from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday, with the exception of Discover the Zoo and Flower Power Fishy Fun, which are 8:30 am to 12 noon or 12:30 to 4:00 pm. Please refer to the Camp BioPark brochure for individual camp descriptions and schedules to determine your availability and area(s) of interest. Volunteer shifts are Monday through Friday from 8:15 am to 4:15 pm for all-day classes and 8:15 am to 12:15 pm or 12:15 to 4:15 pm for half-day classes for a full week. We also ask that you commit to at least two weeks over the course of the summer. Counselors must commit to full weeks of camp. Counselors should bring their own lunch, or be prepared to purchase lunch from the camp menu.

HOW

When applying for the position, Conservation Counselors select the Camp BioPark classes in which they are interested and which best fit their schedule. Counselors are expected to become familiar with the orientation packet which will be provided by BioPark Education staff. Counselors will be paired with a summer camp teacher, and training will be conducted on-the-job.

WHAT YOU WEAR

Conservation Counselors should dress neatly and professionally. For your own comfort and safety, walking shoes should be worn (no heels), and hats and sunscreen are recommended. One uniform shirt will be provided, and a second shirt can be purchased for \$5. Walking shorts and khakis are appropriate. No short shorts, please. Remember, you represent the BioPark when you volunteer, and your dress must conform to acceptable standards set by BioPark personnel.

WHAT YOU DO

Counselors will assist program teachers with the hands-on activities, games and art projects designed for each individual program; assist in setup and cleanup for the program; help maintain an enjoyable, yet orderly, learning environment; and act to ensure the safety of all Camp BioPark participants at all times. Volunteers will also be required to learn about the animals and habitats relevant to Camp BioPark. Counselors may also be asked to perform other miscellaneous jobs as the need arises.

WHAT YOU GET

While on duty, volunteers get a discount on food and gift concessions. Volunteers get a BioPark Education pass, good for free regular admission for the weeks you work at the zoo, aquarium and botanic garden. Volunteers get together on Wednesday, August 2, from 3:30-5:00pm at the zoo to celebrate the summer, and volunteers who have worked at least two weeks will receive a certificate.

This is a great opportunity to learn new skills, make new friends, and get job experience. Skills you will practice by participating in this program include communication, leadership, teamwork, and time management. You will be able to list Conservation Counselor as a job on other job applications and give BioPark Education as a reference. Certificates for those who have completed two or more weeks as a Conservation Counselor will be awarded and can be included in resumes.

WHAT IT COSTS

Nothing! BioPark Education is happy to have you as a volunteer.

WHO TO CALL

If you have any questions about the application, please call Cathy Wylie at 764-6245.

HOW TO APPLY

Please fill out the attached application and consent form and return to Albuquerque BioPark Education, Cathy Wylie, 903 10th Street, SW, Albuquerque, NM, 87102. You will be asked to complete a separate background check form.

WHO'S IN CHARGE

Camp Counselors report to the Summer Teacher and/or Education Coordinator they are working with that week. The teacher reports to the site facilitator - Allyson Wallace at the Zoo, Amy Henderson at the Botanic Gardens, or Dave Karrmann at the Aquarium. They report to Bill Aragon, BioPark Education Curator. Cathy Wylie, Volunteer Program Specialist, is also available to provide assistance.

**Albuquerque BioPark
Conservation Camp Counselor 2006
Volunteer Job Application**

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Age: _____ School: _____

Parent / Guardian:

Name	Number	Relationship
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In case of emergency:

Name	Number	Relationship
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How did you hear about the Camp Counselor volunteer program?

What interested you in the Camp Counselor program?

What makes you a good candidate for this program?

Which weeks of the summer would you like to volunteer? (check all that apply)

☐ June 5 - 9

☐ June 12 - 16

☐ June 19 - 23

☐ June 26 - June 30

☐ July 10 - 14

☐ July 17 - 21

☐ July 24 - 28

Please list at least five camps for which you would like to volunteer. List them in order of preference – your first choice listed first, and so on. Refer to the Camp BioPark brochure for a complete list of camps.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

CAMP COUNSELOR PARENT'S CONSENT

(must be completed if under 18 years old)

I am a parent or lawful guardian of _____, a minor, (hereafter child), who will be participating in the 2006 Camp Counselor Volunteer Program (hereafter Program) at the Rio Grande Zoo, Albuquerque Aquarium, Rio Grande Botanic Garden (BioPark) this summer. I hereby acknowledge that I am aware that this Program may involve a higher level of activity at the BioPark for my child than normal BioPark attendance and that my child may be allowed into areas of the BioPark not usually open to the public. I also acknowledge that he/she may have some contact with animals and that although the BioPark will take reasonable precautions for his/her safety, my child may be subject to some additional risks. I understand and agree that my child may participate in the Program in spite of this additional risk to his/her safety. I agree to have my child outfitted and clothed for said Program.

I agree that I have taken such measures as I have deemed advisable to ascertain that my child's physical condition is suitable for the Program. If I cannot be reached in an emergency, I authorize treatment by a physician.

I further confirm that my child is covered by a medical insurance policy and in the event he/she is injured I will either pay for the medical expenses and other damages or make a claim for our insurance company to pay for same. In consideration for the City allowing my child to participate in the Program, which I consider to be of great benefit to my child, I hereby agree to indemnify, release, defend and hold harmless the City for any expenses or liability it incurs or suffers as a result of any injuries suffered by my child while participating in this Program which exceed such medical policy limits, unless injuries are caused by the gross negligence of the City or its employee.

By signing below, I give my permission for my child to participate in this Program. I acknowledge that I have carefully read the foregoing and agree to be bound thereby.

Parent/Guardian Name (Please print)

Parent/Guardian Address

Home Phone # (June 5 – July 28)

Work Phone (if different)

Signature

Date

Mail application, contract/release and background check forms to:

Albuquerque BioPark Education

Cathy Wylie

903 10th Street SW

Albuquerque NM 87102

OFFICE USE: NMSO PASS / NO PASS _____ Date _____ Initials _____